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Prediction of suicidality in patients with depressive disorder and comorbid disorders

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Introduction: Suicidal behavior is present in all forms of depressive disorders, not only in the most severe forms, although the risk of suicide increases with disease severity. The connection of physical illness and suicidal behavior is very complex.

Objective: Assessment of suicidal behavior in patients suffering from depressive disorder, in correlation with suicidal behavior in patients suffering from depressive disorder (mono diagnosis) and some other mental and/or physical illness (comorbidity or dual diagnosis).

Material and methods: The survey was conducted cross-sequentially on 120 respondents, aged 19-72 years, suffering from depressive disorder and depressive disorder in comorbidity with other mental and physical illness treated in the Clinical Hospital Stip, in hospital and as outpatients from January 2015 to August 2016. For each patient from the sample separately, on admission to hospital or upon arrival for examination as an outpatient, data were collected using questionnaires about sociodemographic data, admissions to hospital and clinical features, while suicidal behavior was studied using a scale for the assessment of the risk of suicide from the Columbia University (C-SSRS). The respondents were divided on the basis of mono & comorbid diagnosis into four subgroups: I) those with depressive disorder; b) those with depressive disorder and physical illness; III) those with depressive disorder and another mental disorder; IV) those with depressive disorder, physical illness and mental disorder, together.

Results: Specific focus was on examining the relationship of suicidal thoughts with gender and co-morbidity, frequency and intensity, as well as differences in preparations, trials, ways and number of suicides. Additionally, we examined the characteristics of suicide on 42 respondents and whether there was a difference among groups in terms of suicidal behavior. The results are in line with our expectations and they showed that comorbidity is a significant factor in predicting suicidal behavior. Detailed statistical analyses is reported in the paper.

Conclusions: Although we are talking about a small sample, still, at the level of absolute numbers and percentages where comorbidity is a clinical reality and suicides are related to the number of diagnoses - a larger number of diagnoses leads to a greater risk of suicidal behavior.

Key words: prediction ; suicidality; depressive disorders; comorbid disorders.